

As you can see, Mexico is a country in transformation. This is making us an even more strategic partner for the future prosperity of the American people. The world is more global and more interconnected every day. It is also divided into large economic regions. Those regions that maximize their comparative advantages will be the ones that succeed. And we both need to compete with Asia and with Europe. Mexico and the United States are stronger together than they are apart. Our economic ties have made both economies stronger, and together, we can renew our partnership to restore stronger and faster economic growth on both sides of the border. A stronger Mexico means a stronger United States. Let us not forget, Mexicans are the second-largest foreign buyers of American goods in the world. And a stronger United States, of course, means a stronger Mexico. So I invite you to work with Mexico and consolidate North America as the most competitive region in the world. I believe in that. Let us create more jobs for American workers and more jobs for Mexican workers.

Members of Congress, I am not a President who likes to see Mexicans leave our country searching for opportunities abroad. With migration, our communities lose their best people, the hardest working, the most dynamic, the leaders of the communities. Each migrant is a parent who will never see his children again.

Quiero decirles a los migrantes, a quienes estan trabajando aqui por la grandeza de este pais, que los admiramos, que los extranamos, que estamos luchando por sus derechos y que estamos trabajando duro por Mexico y por sus familias.

I want to say to the migrants, all those who are working really hard for this great country that we admire them, we miss them, we are working hard for their rights, and we are working really hard for Mexico and for the families. Today we are doing the best we can do in order to reduce migration, to create opportunities, and to create jobs for Mexicans in our own country, where their homes are and where their families are. As many jobs as we can. And Mexico will one day be a country in which our people will find the opportunities that today they look for outside of the country. Until then, Mexico is determined to assume its responsibility. For us, migration is not just your problem. We see migration as our problem as well.

My government does not favor the breaking of the rules. I fully respect the right of any country to enact and enforce its own laws. But what we need today is to fix a broken and inefficient system. We favor the establishment of laws that work and work well for us all. So the time has come for the United States and Mexico to work together on this issue. The time has come to reduce the causes of migration and to turn this phenomenon into one

of legal, ordered, and secure flows of workers and visitors. We want to provide the Mexican people with the opportunities they are looking for. That is our goal, that is our mission as government; to transform Mexico into a land of opportunities, to provide our people with jobs and opportunities, to live in peace and to be happy.

I want to recognize the hard work and leadership of many of you in the Senate, and in the House, and of President Obama, who are determined to find responsible and objective answers to this issue. I am convinced that comprehensive immigration reform is also crucial to secure our common border. However, I strongly disagree with the recently adopted law in Arizona. It is a law that not only ignores a reality that cannot be erased by decree but also introduces a terrible idea: using racial profiling as a basis for law enforcement. And that is why I agree with President Obama, who said the new law “carries a great amount of risk when core values that we all care about are breached.” I want to bridge the gap of feelings and emotions between our countries and our peoples. I believe in this. I believe in communications, I believe in cooperation, and we together must find a better way to face and fix this common problem.

And finally, the well-being of both our peoples depends not only on our ability to face regional challenges but global ones as well. That is the case of climate change. That is the case, for instance, of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in the world. Climate change is one of humanity’s most pressing threats. Global warming demands the commitment of all nations, both developed and developing countries. That is why Mexico was the first developing country to commit to emissions reduction targets and programs. As host of the upcoming COP 16, we are working hard to make progress in the fight against climate change. Because of your global leadership, we will need your support to make the meeting in Cancun next November a success.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Honorable Members of the United States Congress, Mexico is a country in deep transformation, indeed. We are building the future our people deserve, a future of opportunity, a future of freedom, of equality, of the rule of law, a future of security in which families and children can go out to work, study, and play without fear, and most of all, a future in which our children and their children will see their dreams come true. I have come here as your neighbor, as your partner, as your ally, and as your friend. Our two great nations are joined by geography and by history, but more important, we are joined by a shared brilliant future. I believe in the future of North America as the strongest, most prosperous region in the world. That is possible.

President Franklin Roosevelt once said that “the only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts

of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.” And I say, let us work together with a strong and active faith in order to give our people the future they deserve.

Thank you very much for your invitation. God bless America. Viva Mexico.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o’clock and 52 minutes a.m., His Excellency Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Majority Floor Services Chief escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President’s Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, (at 11 o’clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1301

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at 1 o’clock and 1 minute p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING THE RECESS

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to ten 1-minute per side.

DEPENDENT CARE COVERAGE EXPANSION

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 7 the largest private employer in